

## ALEXANDRIA TRADE REVIVAL REPORTED

Merchants Enthusiastic Over Prospects for Good Business in the Fall.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., July 22.—Indications of a decided revival in the retail business of Alexandria and the northern portion of Virginia were reported to the meeting of the Retail Merchants' Association of Alexandria last night. Members are greatly encouraged over the outlook for the fall trade. Members who have visited the country districts in the vicinity declare that the crops will be unusually large this year and that the farmers will be correspondingly prosperous. Indications of a general business revival over the entire country were reported.

Two new members, The Leader Clothing Co. and Abe Cohen, were elected to membership. Robert E. Knight, State vice president of the Retail Merchants' Association of Virginia, reported on the recent meeting of that organization and outlined the work that the association is going to secure a uniform tax law favorable to the merchants of the State. Representatives of the association will shortly appear before the State Board of Finance, which was recently appointed to equalize the State taxes.

The association adjourned until the third week of October.

Miss Esther Burke, who has been visiting the past two months abroad, returned home yesterday.

Arrangements for attending the State convention of the Virginia Firemen's Association, which will be held in Richmond, August 23, 24, 25, were made last night by members of the Alexandria Fire Engine Company. The following were elected as delegates to the association: Archie Fair, J. Sidney Douglas, Lawrence Lowenback, and A. D. Bridges. Alexander chosen as alternate.

The annual excursion of the police department will take place tomorrow. The excursion will be to the Potomac River and one of the largest crowds that has gone from Alexandria this year will join the policemen at Marshall Hall.

The State examination for school teachers opens today at the Eastern Normal School, and will be continued until Friday. There are three applicants, two of whom are colored. The examination is being conducted by Capt. W. H. Sweeney, superintendent of schools.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ella Dudley were held this afternoon from her home on North Washington street, and were conducted by the Rev. O. W. Triplett, pastor of the Second Baptist Church.

The Rev. James Kelly Argo, former pastor of a church near Pittsburg, is the guest of friends here.

Arrangements are being made by the Washington of St. Jerome's Catholic church for a large open-air fair and carnival on the lawn of the church rectory on Olive street, beginning August 1.

One of the features will be a baby show.

The women of the Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church will hold a lawn party on the lawn of Mrs. Haines, in Wells avenue north, on next Friday evening.

A number of citizens and property owners on the north side of Maryland avenue, between Arundel avenue and Carroll street, have petitioned for the construction of a new bridge.

The Christian Endeavor Society of the Verdale Presbyterian church is holding open-air services each Sunday on the lawn of the church. The pastor, the Rev. Abbott Lee Waite, leaves next week on his annual vacation.

Another move for peace has been proposed by Congressman Richard Bartholdt, in a resolution introduced in the House, proposing that the power of Congress shall be limited as to the declaration of war. He wants the Constitution amended so that Congress shall not declare war "except to repel invasion or under circumstances calling for measures of self-defense."

Will Augment Force Fighting Bubonic Plague

Alarmed by the reported development of new cases of bubonic plague in New Orleans, Surgeon General Blum, of the public health service, has determined to send another officer to that city to supplement the force now fighting the disease under Assistant General Hucker. Officials of the public health service said today that the officer has not been selected yet.

Lecture on the Pacific.

"Supremacy on the Pacific—Occidental, Oriental, or Both?" will be the subject of a chautauque lecture to be delivered by Dr. Frederick J. Stanley, lecturer, teacher, lecturer, tonight at the First Presbyterian Church. Dr. Stanley was for nine years in various parts of the East, and is well qualified to make contributions to the present knowledge of conditions in Asiatic countries.

Perishable Produce Shipped.

"The practicability of shipping perishable produce is not open to serious question. For many years the investigators in the Department of Agriculture concerned in the introduction, breeding, improvement and general study of all kinds of fruits, vegetables, and other plants, have utilized the mails in the shipping of experimental material. In this way everything from the most delicate fruits to vegetables suitable for all-

# Urging New Structure to Complete Quarters to House Department of Agriculture Activities

Central Section to Fill Gap Between Two Wings, Likely to Be Suggested as Way to Solve Problem.

14,000 Employees Need Room for Expanding Business. How Present Structures Were Secured.

Away back in the early part of the Roosevelt Administration Congress made an appropriation to erect a new building for the Department of Agriculture. It was supposed, at least by some people, that the amount was to cover an ample, adequate and complete structure.

Later, the folks in Congress who had thus understood, learned that instead of erecting a single building, the authorities had decided to use the entire appropriation putting up two wings, about 100 yards apart, leaving a great vacant space between to be filled in later by the erection of a central section. Of course, the central section couldn't be built until Congress should provide the money for it.

There were a lot of very, very exasperated statesmen when this state of facts was discovered. Secretary Wilson, when asked about it calmly admitted the charges. He had realized, and

President Roosevelt had too, that it would be impossible to erect an adequate structure with the money provided. So it was determined to make plans for an adequate one, and start erecting it piecemeal.

There was some loose conversation about impeaching the Secretary of Agriculture, whereupon President Roosevelt showed his teeth in an expansive grin, assumed the responsibility, and suggested that the boys impeach him if they were pleased with the idea.

That was just a few years ago, and the economists insisted that there was no sense planning for a bigger building than the appropriation would provide. The department wouldn't need it for a great many years.

Sadly Need Room.

But the economists were wrong. Today the two wings are filled to their utmost capacity. The central section has not been built, and is sadly needed. The business of the Department has stopped

over more and more year by year, until it occupies all manner of structures in the general neighborhood of the headquarters building. A big structure has been erected for the Bureau of Chemistry, under a long-term lease which was made with private parties. When it was built, on the plans of the Bureau officers, it was spacious and ample. Now it is crowded.

A big large structure was put up opposite the old building of the Bureau of Engraving, and leased by the government workers as the river and harbor bill is of pork.

Dwelling houses of all sorts and pretensions have been leased at rates that make the prices extravagant, considering the inconveniences they entail; and the work of the department has been per force been scattered to widely separated parts of the town in order to get room.

So it is now being seriously suggested that the central section of the unconstitutional main building shall be provided for and erected. The friends of the Department, in and out of Congress, are getting ready for an effort next session to secure the money.

Practical Defects.

But there is criticism of the plans that have been made. These contemplate what the practical, workaday department people refer to as another architectural monument in which utility and convenience are sacrificed to a rhetorical effect, while a vast amount of floor space goes to a huge rotunda and dome in the center. Government buildings are wont to present these practical defects.

These very practical questions about providing space for Government business are giving concern to officials and members of Congress. Back in 1905, when the "unconstitutional" and "illegal" plan of building wings and

trustful to the future for a main building was devised, there were 5,446 people in the service of the department. At that, its growth in a very few years had been remarkably rapid.

Yet today there are some 14,000 people in this same department. It grows right along, and the range of its activity constantly widens. Its experience is only typical of that presented in other departments, and the question of providing in a practical, economical way, the room needed, is more serious every year.

"If some architectural genius," suggested one official, "would propose a scheme for Government buildings that would be handsome, dignified and characterful enough to satisfy the ideal of a Government structure, he would earn a monument and the gratitude of both taxpayer and the Government workers."

Porto Rico and Cuba Show How Wealth of Tropics Can Be Developed.

Caribbean countries will be wonderfully benefited by the opening of the Panama Canal, according to William J. Shewalter, the magazine writer, who, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, today describes the advantages which will accrue with the opening of the waterway and the wonderful development which has since been wrought in Porto Rico and Cuba since the advent of American methods in these islands.

It would require six Salvadorans to make one Honduran, and yet Salvador has three times as much population and three times as much foreign commerce as Honduras, the magazine writer says. Cuba has less than half as many people as Porto Rico, and yet it has three times as much foreign commerce as Nicaragua. And yet, when Salvador and Costa Rica are compared with Porto Rico, it is found to be slow in their development.

Porto Rico is so small that it could be buried in a single Central American lake; it would take fifty-seven islands of its size to equal Central America. The foreign trade of Porto Rico produces more foreign trade than all Central America together. The reason? Because Porto Rico has an ideal government. The trade of the island has nearly quintupled since Uncle Sam took possession there. The number of children enrolled in the schools has increased sixfold. The wages of the laboring class have multiplied threefold.

Porto Rico's position in the sugar fields, where four tons of sugar are produced where one was a dozen years ago, and where the Porto Rican people receive \$1 for exported sugar where they received \$1 only a dozen years ago. Coffee production has quadrupled since the beginning of the century. The production of oranges has increased.

Cuba production has quadrupled since the beginning of the century. The production of oranges has increased twenty-fold in four years and grapefruit twenty-five-fold in three years. Since 1898, the foreign trade of Cuba has increased sixfold. With an area one-fifth as great, its foreign commerce is three times that of the United States. The reason? The comparisons indefinitely, the lesson of them all being that prosperity cannot exist unless the business of the country continues to grow.

Wealth Undeveloped.

"With vast deposits of minerals, untold thousands of acres of the finest tropical fruit and vegetable lands in the world, and vast areas of magnificent grazing and coffee lands, Honduras is at a sorry state. It is a sorry state, indeed, that the people of Honduras are in the same condition as the people of Porto Rico."

Assuming that Central America can be brought up to Cuba's standard today, its foreign trade would amount to a full billion dollars a year, instead of the barely \$50,000,000 it is today. It would have 10,000 miles of railroad, where it has less than 1,000 miles today. It would have 5,000 miles of macadam roads, as compared with a few hundred. It would have a population of 12,000,000, as compared with 5,000,000 today.

"This, and more, will certainly come to Central America if good government comes there, with a completed Panama canal."

Future for Central America.

Must Separate Accounts.

After June 30, 1915, railroads will be compelled to keep their accounts, with separate, according to an order just issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission, in order to prevent the commission more closely informed on how the railroads actually conduct their business.

Red Blotchy Skin Easily Remedied

Bathe Your Blood with a Cooling, Purifying Remedy

For Polishing Silver or Cleaning Floors

Here's a real cleanser that will do anything and has the ginger that will take grease and dirt from an old floor. Not gritty; never did hurt the skin, never will.

Builders to Meet.

There will be a reunion, social, and musical next Tuesday evening for the delegates of the United States League of Local Building and Loan Associations and their ladies in the ball room of the Raleigh.

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